



Stephen H. Johnson, Acting Director

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NEWS & INFORMATION

King County, OED awarded \$25 million in federal stimulus grants to promote healthy foods



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced this month that Public Health - Seattle & King County has been awarded two highly-competitive federal stimulus grants totaling \$25.5 million dollars over two years to address obesity (healthy eating/active living) and tobacco use. Seattle's Office of Economic Development (OED) will lead one of the key grant strategies for Public Health: a Business Economic Incentive Project, with the aim of increasing access and availability of health foods (such corner stores that offer fresh produce and other healthy foods). OED will be distributing a \$2.2 million portion of this grant to increase healthy food options in targeted communities in Seattle and South King County.

- [Read the King County press release](#)
- [Read the *Seattle P-I's* coverage of the grants](#)

Velocity Dance Center celebrates "greatest move on earth" - with help from the City of Seattle



Capitol Hill's Velocity Dance Center has been a hub for Seattle's contemporary dance community since 1996. When the sale of the Odd Fellows Building and a subsequent major rent increase forced the organization out of its original facility in 2008, Velocity relocated to a nearby building on 12th Avenue. Due to complications with the facility, the group could not immediately occupy the building. The Center sought help from



the City of Seattle last September; the Office of Economic Development and Department of Planning and Development assisted Velocity with permitting issues and served as a liaison between Velocity and the building's owners, ensuring that the move could be achieved on time. Finally, on March 27th, Velocity celebrated its move with a ribbon cutting ceremony and parade, lead by Mayor Mike McGinn; a night-long celebration featuring street performers, dancers, and prominent community supporters; and a week of free classes and events.

- [Learn more about Velocity Dance Center](#)
- [Read *Seattle Times*' coverage of the move](#)

South Lake Union partnership rebrands to focus on global health



Washington State's Innovation Partnership Zones (IPZ) program, created in 2007, brings together research, workforce training and globally-competitive companies in close geographic proximity in cooperative, research-based efforts that will lead to new commercially viable products and jobs. In Seattle, the South Lake Union Innovation Zone has recently rebranded, changing from the South Lake Union Life Sciences IPZ to the South Lake Union Global Health IPZ. Emphasizing the global health subsector will allow the group to build on the momentum of the thriving global health cluster in South Lake Union, accelerated with the recent arrival of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and PATH. Partners in this effort include the Washington Global Health Alliance, Seattle BioMed, the University of Washington, City of Seattle and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

- [Learn more about Innovation Partnership Zones](#)

Pioneer Square revitalization work featured on Seattle Channel's *City Inside/Out*



The work of the Pioneer Square Commercial Revitalization Committee, lead by OED's Senior Policy Advisor Nancy Yamamoto, was a feature story on Seattle Channel's public affairs show *City Inside/Out* this month. The story describes the integrated city and community partnership that is working together to strengthen Pioneer Square's business health. The full Revitalization Committee held its fifth meeting on March 5th, discussing neighborhood marketing and promotion, business outreach and organizational capacity. The Committee will be working over the next month to finalize its action recommendations and develop an implementation plan.

- [Watch "The Future of Pioneer Square"](#)
- [Learn more about the Pioneer Square Business District Revitalization Initiative](#)

Seattle Office of Film + Music brings the party to SXSW



The Seattle Party at South by Southwest (SXSW), the Austin, Texas-based music, film, and interactive conference and festival, featured a two-stage showcase of fifteen Seattle bands - and was attended by a packed house of *1,200 people*. The event was produced by the Seattle Party Committee, co-chaired by Rachel White of the Seattle Office of Film + Music, and funded by sponsorships from Seattle's music industry businesses. The free event garnered glowing local and national press for Seattle's diverse music scene. The lineup of Seattle artists included Visqueen, The Dutchess and The Duke, Rocky Votolato, The Moondoggies, The Maldives, Cave Singers, Mash Hall, Grynych, Dyme Def, Dark Time Sunshine, THEESatisfaction, The Lonely Forest, Staxx Brothers, Macklemore, and Grand Hallway.

- [View photos of Seattle bands at SXSW on the EMP|SFM Flickr](#)
- [Read *The Stranger's* coverage of the Seattle party](#)

Richard Conlin, Washington Huskies meet at third monthly City Business Casual



OED's third monthly City Business Casual event, held last Thursday, March 25th, featured a highly unlikely combination: City Council President Richard Conlin and the Washington Husky men's basketball team, battling West Virginia on a specially-placed TV in the corner of Polar Bar. The forty-plus attendees made business connections, chatted with local government officials - including Richard Conlin, Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes, Department of Planning and Development Director Diane Sugimura, and OED Acting Director Steve Johnson - while cheering on their home team. "I'm sure the connections will be useful and it was fun too," said Robbin Block of [Blockbeta Marketing](#). Although the Huskies ultimately fell to West Virginia (56-69), City Business Casual will be back next month, on Thursday, April 29th. Hope to see you there!

- [Learn more about City Business Casual](#)
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Seattle ranked no. 1 "time-saving city" in the U.S.



This month, *Real Simple* magazine named Seattle the nation's top "time-saving city" - the highest ranked among 21 large U.S. cities, including Portland, OR (#2) and San Francisco, CA (#3). With its extensive public transit, one of the country's most on-time airports, and 50 miles of new bike lanes in the last two years, the magazine called Seattle "an icon of urban efficiency." OED's Karin Zaugg Black, interviewed for the article, highlighted Seattle's Neighborhood Service Centers as major time-savers. "At many of them, you can apply for a passport, pay utility bills or parking tickets, or have a hearing with the magistrate," she explained.

- [Read the full *Real Simple* article](#)
- [Learn about Seattle's Neighborhood Service Centers](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

City of Seattle's GoGreen 2010 champions sustainability in business - April 21st



Interested in bringing the latest sustainability practices to your business - or just want to get a sense for the latest and best in regional sustainability efforts? GoGreen '10 Seattle is a value-packed one day conference connecting eco-entrepreneurs and business leaders in downtown Seattle. Presented by the City of Seattle, the forum features over 60 speakers from Washington state and the Pacific Northwest. Seattle Mayor Mike McGinn, Climate Solutions Policy Director KC Golden, and McKinstry Vice President Ash Awad are only a few of the forward-looking speakers and participants in the GoGreen '10 Conference. Early bird registration ends April 1st, so prospective attendees should visit GoGreen's website now for the cheapest rate.

- [Visit GoGreen '10 for event details and registration](#)
- [Get the latest buzz on the GoGreen Conference Twitter](#)

Cleantech Open '10 deadline approaching - April 22nd



The 2010 Cleantech Open Competition for clean technology startups is underway, with several key dates approaching. April 22nd, 2010 is the Early Bird Entry Deadline, after which the entry fee increases \$50 for both student and professional competitors. Those interested in entering should attend the Executive Summary Webinar on May 4th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. PDT. This briefing will answer questions and help

contestants prepare their Executive Summary entries. Last year, 12 Semifinalists were selected from 56 entrants. Three became regional winners. One, [Hydrovolts](#) of Seattle, won the prestigious National Sustainability Award.

- [Learn more about the 2010 Cleantech Open](#)

Rethink Washington's urban spaces, get published in *Forum* magazine - May 14th



Are you always imagining ways to improve vacant or underutilized spaces in Seattle - or across Washington State? *Forum*, a magazine produced by the Seattle chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), has put out a call for illustrated ideas that rethink underused or vacant urban spaces in Washington. Selected ideas will be published in the magazine's August/September 2010 issue, "Coming Out Ahead of the Curve." The magazine, a platform for critical dialogue about architecture in Washington and the Pacific Northwest, is published quarterly and reaches over 4,000 architects and related professionals. Ideas are due May 14th.

- [Download *Forum's* call for ideas](#) (PDF)



Send submissions, questions, or comments to oed@seattle.gov.